Wednesday, June 24, 2009 • 7 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 196 / P18

What's happening in Nueva Ecija town; Harvard takes notice

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

A PROGRESSIVE MUNICIPALITY IN Nueva Ecija, whose patron, Saint Isidore, was a farmer like most of its 47,000 people, has gained attention at

WHAT'S HAPPENING A6

Puno says new talks ongoing to free Vagni

ACROSS / A15

9 killed in US subway collision

WORLD / A22

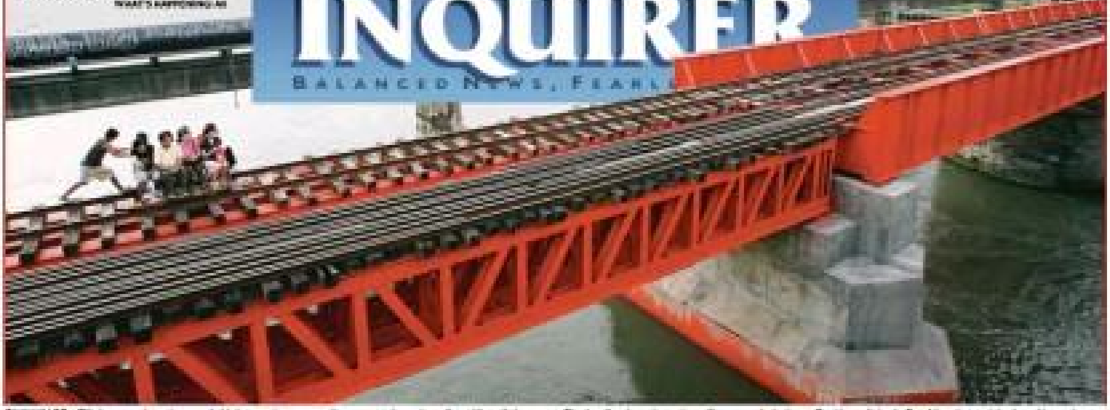
Ex-sexy actor after boys younger than his sons

ENTERTAINMENT / E6

Budget deficit hit P123B in 5 months to May

BUSINESS / B1

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



ONLY IN RP Filipinos may have invented this innovative means of transport along the railroad line all the way to Bicolandia when the trains still ran regularly there. Residents living in Sta. Mesa have picked up this quaint way of earning a living. They ferry people on the railroad tracks over the Pasig using self-made pushcarts. Of course, they look out for "stop, look, listen." Whew, the ride comes with a touch of adventure.



Swine flu grips House of pork

Speaker suspends work until June 28

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SWINE FLU HAS PARALYZED THE House of pork.

The House of Representatives whose members receive pork barrel has suspended office work for five days after reports that the country's first swine flu-related fatality was its employee.

A 49-year-old woman was a staff member of the House committee on people's participation, which holds office on the third floor of the Ramon Mitra building along with dozens of other committees.

She attended a seminar from June 15 to 16 at the Batasan complex in Quezon City where the House is located, and reported for work on June 17 until she fell gravely ill on June 18, according to a House official. She died on June 19.

Speaker Prospero Nograles ordered the suspension of office work from noon yesterday until June 28 to allow the Department of Health (DOH) to sanitize all buildings in the complex and conduct contact tracing of the victim's families and friends.

SWINE FLU A6



GROUND ZERO The first death from the Influenza A(H1N1) virus in the Philippines and in the whole of Asia happened right here in the House of Representatives. The House is closed until Monday for a top-to-bottom cleanup.

Will GMA go on 10-day quarantine? Palace clueless

By Christian V. Esguerra

WILL SHE OR WON'T SHE? Only President Macapagal-Arroyo knows for sure.

With the swine flu virus causing a wide swath of infection worldwide, the government required self-quarantine remains in place, according to Dr. Asuncion Anden, director of the National Center for Health Promotion.

But as to whether the peripatetic President will submit to the 10-day self-quarantine when she flies back to Manila this weekend, not even her deputy spokesperson was certain.

Gary Olivar, one of a number of persons serving as Ms Arroyo's mouthpieces, struggled to reply to a question on whether she would be covered by the protocol as a way of setting an example to the public.

WILL GMA A6

RP flu cases hit 500 mark; hundreds being tested

By Dona Pazzibugan

HEALTH SECRETARY FRANCISCO Duque III yesterday declared a "low-level" community outbreak of the Influenza A(H1N1) virus in certain parts of Metro Manila, as the number of confirmed cases neared the 500 mark. Hundreds more suspected cases are waiting to be officially tested.

Duque said the virus transmission had apparently gone beyond "third generation" in the communities where affected schools were located.

He mentioned Quezon City, Parañaque and Manila as sites of low-level community outbreak. These, along with Makati, have the highest number of swine flu cases based on the place of residence.

"We're there but it's low-level," Duque said at a news briefing when asked if a community-level transmission already existed after the Department of Health (DOH) confirmed 28 new cases that brought the total to 473.

A community-level outbreak is the fourth and highest level of transmission.

It is no longer possible to trace where the transmission started (called the index case) since the virus has spread beyond the close contacts

RP FLU CASES A6

JPE warns Comelec: No election could spark revolution



ENRILE: We have to be very careful. It's the social explosion that we worry about.



ESCUDERO: The bidder is outsourcing the entire elections … with no plans from the Comelec.



GORDON: The bids and subbids for deployment by "To Go" are not bids.



MELO Mellow during the four-hour Senate hearing to probe Comelec's preparedness and into the winning bidder's contract.

By Christine O. Avendaño

SENATE PRESIDENT JUAN PONCE Enrile yesterday expressed concern over the preparations for the conduct of the automated balloting next year, warning a failure to hold the presidential election could spark a revolution.

During a four-hour Senate hearing, officials of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) were questioned on whether due diligence had been made in selecting the consortium of Smartmatic-Total Information Management Corp. to carry out the computerized polling.

The signing of the P7.4-billion contract has been set for Friday with the Barbados-based company to supply 82,200 counting machines to get results of the polls within two days of voting instead of weeks it takes currently.

The senators also sought a review of the "bids" where the counting machines will be stored following disclosure that planning for this had been subcontracted by Smartmatic to a forward firm, To Go, owned by the Abalda family that is closely identified with

JPE WARNS A11

Cavite rage: Sign of 'outsider' Muslims vs locals

By Marlon Ramos

THE BLOODY FAMILY FEUD IN Imus, Cavite, on Father's Day may be a sign of brewing tension between Muslim "outsiders" and Caviteños, former Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla warned yesterday.

"It's a tinderbox waiting to explode," Remulla said, explaining

CAVITE A6

Bunye tells court Oakwood rebels' documents false

By Nina Catherine Calleja

FORMER PRESS SECRETARY IGNACIO Bunye yesterday testified on the so-called "Greenbase Documents" and said the root causes of the mutiny of the junior officers and men who mounted the daylong Oakwood mutiny in 2003 were "false."

Bunye, along with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, was summoned by Judge Oscar Pimentel to testify on "Oplan Greenbase," a purported plan of President Macapagal-Arroyo to launch offensives against the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) intended to set the stage for a declaration of martial law.

Now a member of the Monetary Board, Bunye appeared at the hearing on the coup d'état case against the Oakwood mutineers at the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148, and was cross-examined in relation to press releases and statements issued by Malacañang.

The Palace statements involved the President's order for the military to attack

BUNYE A6

'Neda' video lets world know blood of protests runs in Iran

CAIRO, EGYPT—SHE LIES IN THE TEHRAN street with her headscarf half-off, blood pooling around her jeans and white sneakers.

"Don't be afraid, Neda dear, don't be afraid," a white-haired man says desperately in Persian. Another man presses on her chest, trying to keep her alive.

NEDA A11



NEDA AGHA SOLTAN Hers is face that electrified the world.

Second FRONTPAGE



6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN

5 21 23 24 32 41

P7,148,921.40

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

6 27 29 38 44 46

P49,183,761.60

Sona won't turn into Con-ass

'We're not that callous,' House leaders insist

THE HOUSE LEADERSHIP IS NOT SO UNFEELING AS TO TURN the joint congressional session to hear the President's State of the Nation Address in July into a constituent assembly, according to a proponent of the controversial measure calling for convening Congress into just such an assembly.

Not enough votes

'Decent people'

'Feria' heads for Metro after landfall in Samar

Storm signals up

No. 1 over Metro

Stranded passengers



Julius Fortuna, journalist, 70s activist leader, dies; 61


FORTUNA

336 RP peacekeepers join UN force in Golan Heights

SC asked to let gov't sell 24% stake in SMC

By Norman Bordadora

THE OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR General yesterday asked the Supreme Court to allow the government to sell its 24-percent stake in San Miguel Corp. to avoid losses as a result of the depreciation of the shares of stocks that were bought with coco levy funds.

Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera, the concurrent solicitor general, said the government is obliged to pursue the sale of the shares that have been declared by the Sandiganbayan as owned by the government in trust for coconut farmers.

A private firm previously offered more than P50 billion for the said shares.

Former Senators Jovito Salonga and Wigberto Tañada of the Multi-Sectoral Task Force on the Coco Levy recovery have asked the Supreme Court to order San Miguel Corp. to explain how the shares have figured in its recent business transactions such as its acquisitions of Meralco and Petron shares.

The task force also opposes the sale of the shares that was first proposed by Philippine Coconut Producers' Federation of the Philippines.

They said Cocofed doesn't represent coconut farmers and was even one of those implicated in cases of coconut levy recovery.

Ruby Rose sis wants judge out of case

6 'transgender' Pinoys held in China for robbery

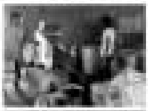
By Cynthia D. Balana

ERRATUM

In CESB Resolution No. 799 (Omnibus Policy on the Coverage of the Career Executive Service (CES)) approved on May 18, 2009 and adopted on May 19, 2009 published in page A13 of the Philippine Daily Inquirer on June 21, 2009 only the following Board Members have signed the said Resolution: Bernardo P. Abesamis, Maria Paz W. Foronda, Elmor D. Juridico, Rolando L. Metin, Jairus D. Paguntalan, Antonio D. Kalaw. The PDI conveys its apology for inadvertently indicating "SGD" opposite the name of Ricardo L. Saludo.

CARP WORKS, IMPROVES LIVES

OF FARMER-BENEFICIARIES







No less important than their improved economic condition is the improvement in their social life. The moments of terror when they feared for their lives, when they ate on their table at night with lights turned off, were over. They can now sleep soundly, and greet the day with better hope. They now have more time for leisure and community socials, such as organizing or joining sports competitions. For them—without a shadow of doubt—CARP works.









Corrections

The Daily Gospel

Wednesday, June 24, 2009





DepEd pleas fail to stop suspension of classes

2 BSP employees catch swine flu abroad

Swine flu grips House of pork; Speaker suspends work till June 28

RP flu cases hit 500 mark; hundreds being tested

Will GMA go on 10-day quarantine? Palace clueless

Sotto says he's a complainant in Capitol Hills case

[illegible]

What's happening in N. Ecija town; Harvard takes notice



MAYOR Sonia Lorenzo of San Isidro, Nueva Ecija

Out of domestic duties

People's affirmation

Zero infant mortality

Nurturing the enabler

Better electoral behavior

Bunye tells court Oakwood rebels' documents false

Trillanes et al.

No order to investigate

Oplan Greenbase

Presidential commission

Cavite rage: Sign of 'outsider' Muslims vs locals

Clash of cultures

Frequent fights

Complaints vs Muslim bullies

Civilian security groups

STIMULUS PACKAGE

2,834 RP war vets get US checks



BACANI

Now a free man, Atong Ang vows to shun politics

Talks ongoing to talk Erap out of running

No more celebrity role models, DepEd urged

But what's the message?

Mixing celebs and studes

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
OPINION

Where's my vote?

EDITORIAL

THIS WAS THE SLOGAN THAT TENS, AND THEN hundreds, of thousands of Iranians have been displaying on signs. The signs have been evident ever since the Iranian government announced a landslide win for incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad the morning after the polls closed on June 14.

Supporters of the leading opposition candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi were stunned, then outraged, by the landslide announcement. Days upon days of increasingly large, and largely peaceful, rallies took place, met by an increasingly ferocious response from the authorities.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei at first threw his enormous political and spiritual behind the proclamation of Ahmadinejad, then seemed to relent a bit by indicating support for a partial recount. However, by then, the repeated insistence by the Iranian authorities that Ahmadinejad's victory was genuine, led the opposition to call for fresh elections. Last Friday, Khamenei went back to his original position of whole-hearted support for the incumbent and authorized repressive measures against protesters.

The use of plainclothes thugs, the revolutionary guards militia, and the police against protesters had already turned the protests from a loyal petition for a recount into an outright confrontation with the authorities. For the first time, that confrontation has included directly challenging the spiritual, moral, and political supremacy of the supreme leader. After Khamenei announced a "no permit, no rally" policy, citizens took the streets again.

Government suppression of dissent has included storming students' dormitories to confiscate and smash computers; the roundup and arrest of journalists, political figures, and ordinary citizens; the expulsion of foreign media correspondents; and a systematic effort to limit access to the Internet for Iranians. Citizens have fought back by using social media to spread the word on rallies and arrests, and to provide photos and video of repression.

Observers inside and outside Iran say what is taking place there is the biggest political crisis in over a generation, and the first direct challenge to the regime since the Islamic Republic was established following the ouster of the shah in 1979. Iran's spiritual and political leaders consider the confrontation the evil doings of the West, but Iranian students, women, the middle and professional classes and others consider it a showdown over the future of their country as a democracy.

The Revolutionary Guard has stepped in and issued warnings, but these have been met with even more defiance by the citizenry, and no longer just in Tehran. There has been an almost unceasing catalog of brave acts in the name of democracy and decency by ordinary Iranians: from doctors and nurses who protested the government's abduction of patients injured in street protests to the Iranian national soccer team wearing green armbands (the opposition's color) in its Seoul match last week, to the death of a young girl whose name has become a household word the world over: Neda Agha Soltani, who was shot in Tehran by the Basij militia during a rally.

For Filipinos who have bothered to follow the international news, and in particular, for young Filipinos attuned to the online activism that has seen Iranian resistance embraced by the rest of the world, there is something all too familiar about the situation in Iran.

It is the unbridgeable gulf between the technical legalism of governments that expect unquestioning obedience from their citizens, so long as the outward appearances of democracy are observed. As it stands, even the Iranian government has had to admit that there were three million votes cast in excess of the actual number of voters. But, it argues, this is not a reason to overturn the proclaimed result of the election.

Iranians in increasing numbers obviously disagree. And what the world is asking is whether what began as demonstrations in defense of the principle of one person, one vote, is now headed towards a fight between dreams of a more secular future, and the theocratic status quo.

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Comelec claims it is addressing problems

AS I SEE IT
Neal H. Cruz

WILL PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO BE considered resigned from the presidency once she files her certificate of candidacy as representative for her district in Pampanga? Legal opinions differ. Even members of the Commission on Elections disagree. Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said yes, she must resign. The next day, Comelec Chairman Jose Melo said no, she doesn't have to. The day after, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said she would be considered resigned. GMA's lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, said no, she is exempted. Last Monday at the Kapihan sa Manila, lawyer Adel Tamano said the intent of the Constitution is for an incumbent official to resign when running for another position so that he/she cannot take advantage of the powers of his/her office. Because in this case even more so for the president, the most powerful official of the land, he added.

Also at the Kapihan, Comelec spokesman James Jimenez said neither Comelec commissioner's opinion is conclusive. The Comelec is a collegial body and its members will have to discuss and vote on the issue. The majority vote wins. Melo has only one vote, even if he is the chair.

But it is premature to even talk about it. Nobody has brought the issue to the Comelec because GMA has not filed her certificate of candidacy as yet and whether or not she is going to run, she is still, in the words of former President Fidel V. Ramos, "in a state of titillation."

But this is the logic of Tamano, which I think makes sense. Because of the abuses of President Marcos when he had himself reelected, the framers of the 1986 Constitution increased the presidential term from four to six years, without reelection. The reason is for the incumbent not to be able to use the vast powers of the presidency to his/her advantage for his reelection. If the Constitution bans the president from running for reelection because his/her rivals would be at a disadvantage, there's all the more reason it should prevent the incumbent president from running for a lesser position, such as congressman. He/she should be made to vacate the presidency to make the congressional fight fair and even.

Under the old election law, elective officials running for another position had to resign. If they are running for reelection, however, they didn't have to. The only exception were the senators: they didn't have to resign from the Senate when they ran for another position such as the presidency or vice presidency. If they lost in the election for the other position, they could go back to the Senate. Any objection?

* * *

(As an aside, doesn't this interpretation of the Constitution also mean that a former president can run again for the presidency after a gap of one term? Logic: Not being an incumbent anymore, the former president can no longer use the powers of the presidency to have himself reelected. The presidential campaign field would be an even playing field. That has long been the argument of former President Joseph Estrada and his legal advisers.)

* * *

At the same Kapihan, Jimenez allayed the fears of observers and articulated in this column last Monday about possible kinks in the conduct of the automated elections. "We recognize the problems, and we do not have all the answers yet," he said, "but we are addressing them."

On the size of the ballot, which is feared will be very big because it would have to contain 300 or so names of candidates, Jimenez said both sides of the ballot would be printed so it would be only the size of one bond paper.

He also said that the ballot would not be printed on thermal paper but on ordinary thick bond paper. The certificates of canvass, however, would be on thermal paper.

On the ballot being crumpled and therefore rejected by the voting machine, Jimenez said the machine is designed to read even crumpled paper. What about if it is wet? Answer: It can at once be dried with a hair dryer.

How many different ballots would be printed? Answer: One for each congressional district, or 1,600 different types of ballots. A total of 50 million ballots would be printed.

Has the National Printing Office the capacity to print all of that? Answer: If not, they can be contracted to private printers.

Isn't that risky? Extra ballots may land in the hands of unscrupulous candidates. Answer: The Comelec will have secret security marks on the ballots.

What about the time spent in the voting precinct? Because of the sheer number of names on the ballot, won't the voters run out of time? Won't there be a traffic jam in the voting precincts? Answer: It would be no different from the old method. Voters can study the sample ballots beforehand and bring their "codigo" to the precincts.

To sum up, Jimenez said to others: "Never fear, the Comelec is here."

* * *

The third guest at the Kapihan was Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales, who has been accused by the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (PASG) of complicity in the smuggling of fuel oil.

An oil company was allowed to import fuel duty-free provided it is sold only in locations in the free trade zone in Cagayan de Oro. If the fuel is sold outside the zone, the oil firm must pay the duties. But the Bureau of Customs allowed it to sell its fuel and did not collect duties. Morales is guilty, the PASG claimed, by way of command responsibility.

However, said Morales, command responsibility is only in the military, not in a civilian office such as the Bureau of Customs. "And anyway, I am leaving the case investigated, and we are in the process of collecting the duties amounting to several hundreds of millions of pesos," Morales said.

Theater

THERE'S THE RUB
Conrado de Quiros

IT'S THE ONE THING THAT STANDS OUT. The theaters are located in banks in Makati, in the topmost floors of posh malls in Greenhills, and in the expanse of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The people who go there park gleaming cars in wide spaces, if they are not chauffeured right up to the very door of the theater, and emerge from them dressed in flowing gowns and well-pressed suits. They gather in chandeliered lobbies and raise a babble of polite chatter, punctuated by occasional bursts of laughter. That is the most important part of the night. Everything goes downhill from there.

Not long after the theatrical fare begins, some begin dozing off on their seats, prevented from the ghastly pass of snoring a little too loudly by a tap on the hand or arm with the fan of their companion. A stereotype image from movies about people watching opera, but one I've actually seen in Meralco Theater featuring a musical I will not mention. The tickets have been pressed upon them to begin with by way of sponsorship or beneficence, tax-deductible, dinners like a bone to what seems like a doomed or defeated cause.

The men are bedraggled, having just come off from work, or play, and the women are hassled, hurried, and harried and willing to endure the sought of beaux in the dark for a chance to quite literally sparkle before and after. A stereotype, yes, but stereotypes have been known to produce its futility.

In Broadway, or the general area around it, from the 42nd upward, the theaters are located in the streets. Outside them, on the sidewalk, people line up to get in or early afternoon. Most have gotten their tickets days or even weeks before. Some others have just braved the crowd in the ticketing office in Broadway that day—a pretty big smile to have that make go—and gotten rewarded for their pains. Most others were not, the tickets disappearing faster than in Pacquiao fights.

The show we are watching starts at 2:00 p.m. The matinees are cheaper than their nighttime runs, but "cheaper" is a very relative word. The thing we are watching is "Jersey Boys," a still new production and a favorite among people my age, and the tickets that we got for it cost $120. And that was half price courtesy of friends of friends who had friends inside or upstairs, all very hush-hush, all very Pinoy. The real price for the seats, which was just several rows from the stage, was close to three hundred bucks.

I myself had gotten my ticket courtesy of friends who were determined to make me happy. I am not a dish man and neither was I though I like to entertain culture and believe ardently that civilization is not a luxury, the thought of parting with P12,000 or thereabouts for a theatrical offering is not exceptionally tempting.

But that's the wonder of it. The tickets cost a small fortune even for people who earn dollars, but people rush to buy them like they opened fountains or the doors to the latest movie blockbuster. The ones who have queued up before the August Wilson Theater on 52nd and 8th are dressed in street clothes on a cold Wednesday summer afternoon: jean, t-shirt and sweaters. Some are in suits that have seen much wear; they probably sneaked out of the office in pursuit of an afternoon delight of the more uplifting kind. Most are in denims or slacks or shorts (or short shorts for some women), a truly uplifting sight. And Takano, as compared to my long sheaves and sweater, looked to a retailer accomplished. Half of the crowd consists of visitors, like ourselves, who do not mind making the tradeoff between expense and experience, financial loss and spiritual gain. The other half consists of the ordinary denizens of a city for whom going to the theater is just the higher end of watching movies.

I remembered the words from Simon and Garfunkel's "Dangling Conversation": "Yet we speak of things that matter / With words that must be said / Can analysis be worthwhile? / Is the theater really dead?" I don't know about analysis being worthwhile, but I do know if the theater is really dead. The answer was right there before me.

The scene outside made the scene inside almost a footnote, or a denouement. "The Jersey Boys" is a favorite among people my age—though it draws in a youthful crowd as well from the rave reviews—because it tells the story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. Frankie Valli? Right, a group that shone briefly and not conspicuously brightly during my time. "Jersey Boys" differs from Kevin Spacey's "Beyond the Sea," which tells the story of Bobby Darin, however, in one fundamental respect. Whereas that while "Beyond the Sea" tries to give Darin an importance he doesn't deserve, "Jersey Boys" just gives the Four Seasons the acknowledgement they deserve without acknowledgment. It's funny, witty and charmingly self-deprecating, and the songs coming one on top of the other are, probably even for those who do not repair or suffer from the benefit or curse of nostalgia, exhilarating.

Still, as we say Fredericksburg when you grow with awe and envy at the sheer artistry of it, at the sheer classiness of it, at the sheer professionalism of it. The standards are high. I do not know which is the chicken and which is the egg: whether it is the fierce competition that is driving this theater to force brilliance (you don't happen, you die) or the fierce brilliance that is driving up the fierce competition (being just good isn't good enough). But who cares? Maybe analysis is worthwhile, but not on a day like this, not on a bright cold day like this, not on a forever day like this. Some days you're just glad to be alive.

Some days you're just glad some things aren't dead yet.

After Sona, a lame-duck presidency

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

'Balik Baguio'

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

The power of protest

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

'O-sei san'

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

Charter manipulation meant to serve selfish interests


HEALTH Secretary Francisco Duque explaining A(H1N1) response system for schools

Draw up, orchestrate nationwide response to A(H1N1)

What weighs heaviest in Filipino minds

Worthy elections in people's hands

Independence of judiciary a massive hoax

Erap 2 will trigger another Edsa uprising

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JPE warns Comelec: No election could spark revolution

From page A1

Patented machine breakdown

Protest for martial law



THOSE FAMILIAR ...

Do homework

P1.3-billion capital

Comelec outsourcing polling

Spare machines

No annulment of vote, says Iran's poll body



NOBEL PEACE PRIZE laureate Shirin Ebadi ...



IRAN'S PRESIDENT Mahmoud Ahmadinejad ...



THE DISOWNED ...

'No major fraud'

A little help from Russia

'She only wanted freedom for the people of Iran'

'I still feel her'

White-haired man

'Neda' video lets world know blood of protests runs in Iran

From page A1

3 video recordings

Posters of Soltan's face

New arena of censorship

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

A village's encounter with A(H1N1)



HOUSE TO HOUSE

FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE farming village of Hilera in Jaen, Nueva Ecija, was in the news. Its people, however, would rather forget the life-changing experience.

> The virus attack waned and its victims recovered. The residents never panicked in the midst of the attack

Saving Pangasinan literature



PANGASINAN'S WRITERS ARE in an uphill climb in their effort to save the dying Pangasinan literature.

Across the NATION

Puno bares new talks with Vagni kidnappers

Proof of life

General location



SCENIC
Against the backdrop of Mt. Matutum, government soldiers and their armored vehicle rest at a roadside in Koronadal, South Cotabato, as they take part in security preparations for the arrival of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who celebrated Independence Day in the province.

GMA orders Army to wipe out NPA in Samar

In poor Leyte town, plastic buys licenses



Licenses, permits

Plastic savings

SBMA advisory says firm runs Subic casino, hotel 'illegally'

LIRL side

Gambling woes

Series of unsolved killings, crimes grip CamSur, Naga City

SPORTS

Glover etches name on US Open trophy



Federer kicks off bid to nail 15th Grand Slam title



FEDERER



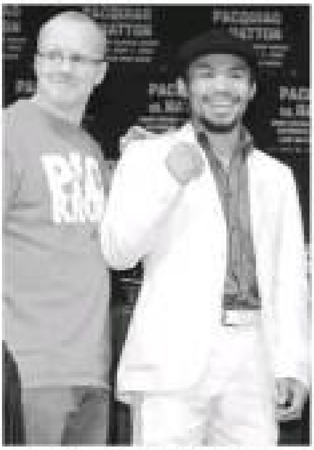
SHARAPOVA

In-form Beermen, E-Painters eye decisive 3-1 leads

Romero gives cycling a boost for SEA Games

VERSUS COTTO

Manny wants October fight



SBP denounces Fiba's special commission

Mikee in middle of a maelstrom

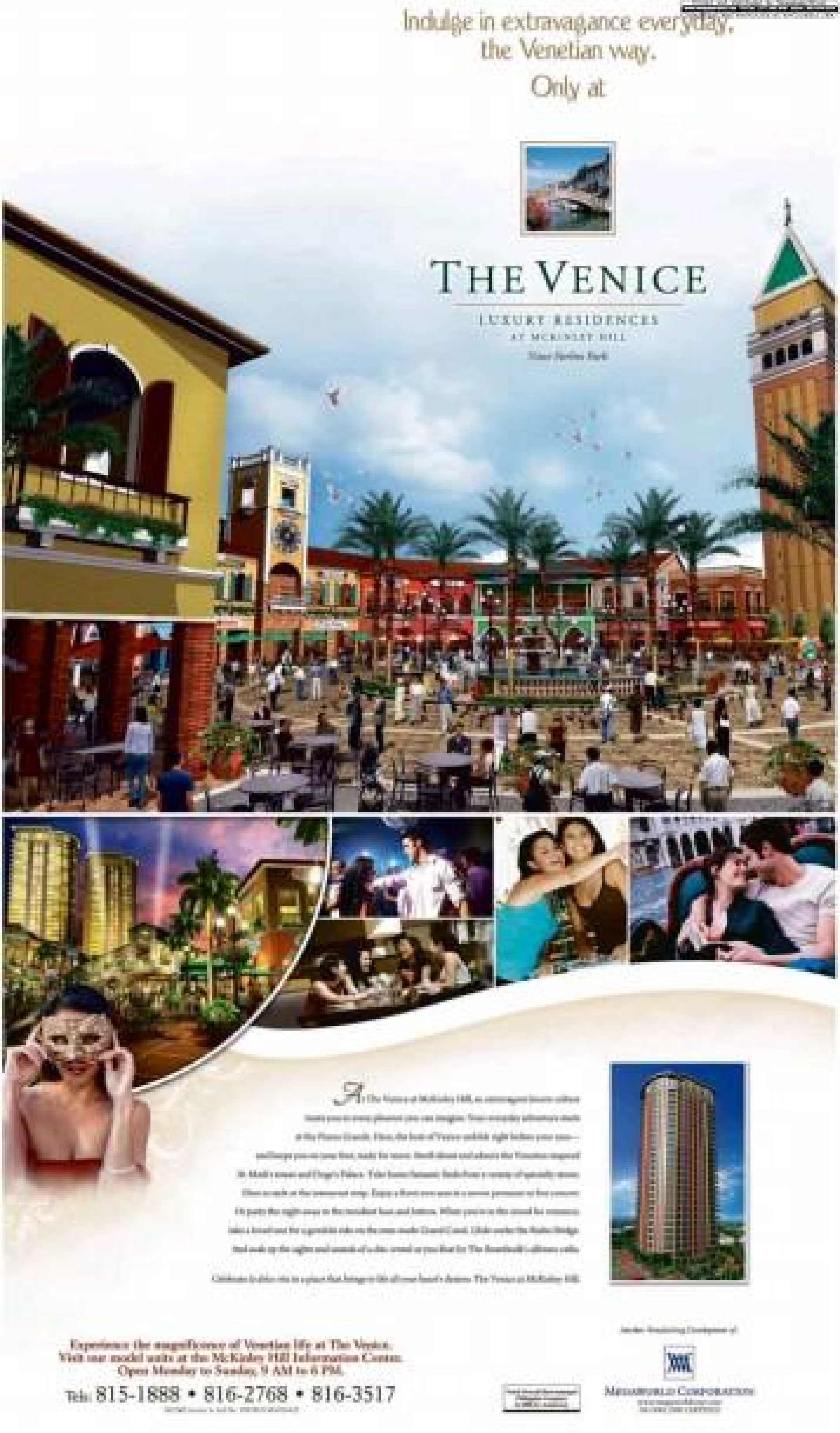
IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis



Munti, Illam batters fall in As-Pac tourney



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the Venetian way.
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DID YOU KNOW



People's initiative vs depot launched

Over 2,000 Manileños sign bid for Ord. 8187 repeal







Taytay mayor agrees to shut dump down

Outstanding Manilans to be feted at 'Araw' rites

By Tina G. Santos

Cainta barangay officials defy suspension order



STRONG WIND'S AFTERMATH

Taguig mayor on shabu pusher claiming to be his kin: Book him

Hailstones hit 2 barangays in Parañaque

METROBRIEFS

QC cop vows to fight on

3 men found guilty of kidnap

Battery-powered shuttle rides at Araneta Center

By Julie M. Aurelio

People's initiative vs depot launched



READ-ALONG SESSION

Pakistan Army in final phase of Swat offensive

[illegible]

Mexico arrests 7 in daycare fire

[illegible]



[illegible]

Hospital enforces 'right to die' ruling

[illegible]

Militant camp may hold clues to Taliban operations

[illegible]

WorldBriefs

Somali pirates free Dutch ship

[illegible]

Afghan UN aid workers killed

[illegible]

Guantanamo detainee ordered freed

[illegible]

Rival of Taliban leader killed

[illegible]

Leader of Russian region wounded

[illegible]

Indonesian elephant fossil opens window to past

[illegible]



[illegible]

The WORLD

Bombings, shootings kill more than 30 in Iraq

BAGHDAD—BOMBINGS AND SHOOTINGS KILLED MORE THAN 30 people across Iraq on Monday, including high school students on their way to final exams, part of a new round of violence ahead of next week's deadline for US troops to withdraw from urban areas.

AP



DISTRICT of Columbia Fire and Emergency workers at the site of a rush-hour collision between two Metro transit trains in northeast Washington, D.C., on June 22.



N. Korean ship heads for Burma

AP

9 killed in Washington rush-hour subway crash

AP

Thousands stranded in Thai railway strike

AP



BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Budget deficit hit ₱123B in 5 months to May

Finance chief rejects WB recession forecast

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT SPENT P123.2 BILLION over its budget from January to May, about five and a half times the deficit of P18.8 billion incurred in the same period last year.

Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves on Tuesday said the latest figure was "very well within" the target deficit of P150.1 billion for the first half which, he is confident, would be met.

Also, Teves rejected forecasts by the World Bank that the country would fall into a recession this year.

"We're focused, and I think we can hit 0.8 percent (gross domestic product growth)," Teves told reporters.

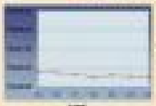
"The likely scenario is 0.8-percent growth," he said, adding that this was already a conservative projection.

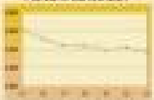
Reacting to reports that the World Bank had projected a 0.3-percent contraction this year, Teves said: "They are

BUDGET B4



TEVES





First tranche of Samurai bonds seen in Sept.

[illegible]

FIRST B4

The immobile Piltel (price)

Biz Buzz

By the staff

If you can't beat them ... sell

Cabinet exits ...

... and entries

Ayala Land developing ₱1-B residential project in Pasig

'Boutique townhouse' a unique venture, exec says

By Doris C. Dumlao



AQUINO

Benpres buying back FPHC shares

RP, Japan working on swap deal

Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

Petron to issue preferred shares

Firm aims to raise up to ₱15B

By Amy R. Remo







Napocor awards ₱2.6B worth of oil supply deals



Global economy forecasts glum

US consumers less cautious, survey says

Germany, Japan buck downtrend

Fed unlikely to prescribe new medicine



Emerging markets seen boosting Citi

Asian stocks drop; crude oil below $67

Shares close lower

Budget deficit hit ₱123B in 5 months

First tranche of Samurai bonds seen

Banks remain cautious in bringing down rates



₱3B worth of pirated goods seized in H1



Extension of zero duty on feedwheat sought





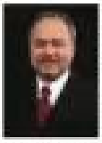
PMAP congratulates St. Luke's Medical Center for achieving the Investors in People Recognition

The first and only hospital in the Philippines to be awarded the Investors in People Certification on June 24, 2009



I had the honour to be part of the team from Investors in People, Philippines that conducted the assessment for St Luke's Medical Centre. As an assessment team, we were impressed with St Luke's clear strategy for being a hospital that can compare with the best in the world, and their commitment to continuous improvement. This strategy is supported by a way of managing people that seeks to develop their skills, involve and empower them. The team believes this will give St Luke's a competitive advantage and is an excellent basis from which to continue to improve and achieve an ambitious vision. It was a privilege to be able to look behind the scenes to see what makes St Luke's successful and be able to add to the Hospital's continuing improvement in the future.

(Sgd.) **JANET F. WEBSTER**
IIP Assessor/ Practitioner Developer, IIP Philippines Centre
International IIP Practitioner, International Quality Centre, IIP United Kingdom



We applaud St. Luke's Medical Center for achieving the Investors in People Recognition - the first IIP recognized organization in the health/hospital industry in the country! The award proves that the organization lives out world class people management practices which highly contribute to its sterling performance.

Having attained the Investors in People Standard, St. Luke's proves how the organization continuously challenges itself to improve employee performance through good people management practices.

GERARDO L. PLANA, FPM
Chief Executive, IIP Philippines Centre
Executive Director, PMAP

St. Luke's Medical Center Invests in its People

St. Luke's Medical Center has always been committed to continuously provide the best practices by acquiring certifications on internationally quality standards, such as the Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation. This means that the hospital is delivering the highest standards on quality Patient Care and Safety. Such achievement did not stop St. Luke's from continuing its success. Its adherence to excellence was, once again, ascertained when its commitment to work towards the Investors in People Standard was made in December 2008. The official signing of certificate of commitment took place on January 28, 2009.

The Investors in People (IIP) is the only international quality standard that focuses on people aimed at improving business performance. It is a straightforward, proven business framework for delivering business improvement through people. The Standard was developed in United Kingdom (UK) in 1990. There are now over 40,000 organizations certified and 31,000 organizations committed worldwide. IIP is based on three (3) key principles — PLAN, DO and REVIEW. These are underpinned by ten (10) indicators of good practice. Being recognized as an 'Investor in People' involves five (5) steps — (1) Commitment, (2) Diagnosis, (3) Implementation, (4) Assessment, and (5) Recognition. A globally recognized seal of excellence, IIP Certification is associated with effective people management and development. It is complementary to the standards of JCI on Patient Care and Safety.

In just about four (4) months (so far, the shortest period of IIP certification process in the Philippines for a first timer), several activities were implemented and carried out by the medical center to ensure compliance to the Standard. To get started, the IIP Committee of St. Luke's, chaired by its Vice President for Human Resources Division, Mr. Federico R. Marquez, Jr. was formed to serve as the prime mover of the IIP action plans from the program blueprint (planning, design, implementation, coordination, documentation and evaluation) to certification. Each of its core divisions was represented to ensure direct communication and consistency of implementation across the organization.

St. Luke's Medical Center did not go through the standard diagnostic carried out by the IIP Philippines Quality Center. The medical center opted to have its self-diagnostic assessment, which was spearheaded by its own IIP Committee. The team was able to determine areas on people practices to focus on. Consequently, pertinent action plans and initiatives were implemented in preparation for the 3-day onsite assessment.

St. Luke's has requested assessment for the Investor in People Framework and for the focus of the assessment to be on how the hospital's people management strategy and practices support its mission of delivering excellent healthcare, demonstrated through clinical outcomes and customer service; and on how the Investors in People Standard can support the center's vision to be one of the top 5 medical institutions in Asia by 2010. A total of 144 employees from different levels (top-to-bottom) were interviewed by a team of assessors namely, Janet Webster (Lead Assessor from UK), Ramon Medina and Teresita Villanueva.

Achieving the IIP Standard was not a box-ticking exercise for St. Luke's, nor was it about getting another plaque or badge to put on the wall. It was far deeper than that. As its President and CEO, Mr. Jose F.G. Ledesma: "It is not about getting the certification. It's all about the important value that the company will get from the IIP Standard that will bring change to the medical center. Recognition is just a bonus."

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

St. Luke's Medical Center Quezon City

One of the world's best



From left: Tess Villanueva (IIP Philippines Assessor), Freddi Marquez (St. Luke's Vice President for Human Resources Division), Janet Webster (IIP UK Assessor), Mr. Jose F.G. Ledesma (St. Luke's President and CEO), and Mon Medina (IIP Philippines Assessor).



IIP Framework of Standard Indicators

The true "jewels" of St. Luke's

St. Luke's Medical Center recognised that the Investors in People Standard, with its focus on people development and management, as well as communication across organizations, provided the right tool for putting in a structure to the institution's current people practices. IIP has helped the medical center to integrate and expedite another scorecard, which was precisely aligned with the center's thrust for people empowerment. The value of human capital has constantly been an integral part of St. Luke's success. It is for this reason that it aims to continuously enhance its business practices to provide a challenging and nurturing work environment. Its management believes that the better the people, the better the business. That is why St. Luke's invests in its people's learning and development, involvement and empowerment, recognition and reward, providing them with their needs to become highly skilled in their respective crafts. If people are happy, they strive for excellence and are eager to learn and be developed. They are more efficient, more productive and deliver better results. As a result, they always make other people, like patients and guests, happy, satisfied and well. IIP helped the center to strengthen a culture that really values and supports its most important assets – its people.

To retain its IIP recognition, the medical center will have its review of people practices every three (3) years.

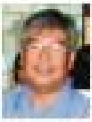


On behalf of the People Management Association of the Philippines' officers and members, we congratulate St. Luke's Medical Center for achieving the Investors in People Recognition!

The Investors in People Certification is an important initiative that PMAP promotes to advance excellence in people management in the Philippines.

We laud PMAP members, like St. Luke's, who are committed to improving business performance through good people management.

GRACE ABELLA-ZATA
President, PMAP
Managing Director, Corporate Executive Search



On behalf of the Investors in People Philippines Recognition Panel, I would like to offer my congratulations to the St. Luke's Medical Center on being recognized as an Investor in People.

It is evident that the Investors in People assessment conducted for St. Luke's was very exhaustive and the necessary linkages reviewed, analyzed and established. Evidences, if and when required, were presented and satisfied. May I suggest though and St. Luke's Medical Center may find it worth their while, to exchange notes with the other medical centers accredited by the Joint Commission International. They may have the same aspirations that can reinforce each other in their common pursuit. Likewise, be both an inspiration to the whole medical industry to continuously raise the bar for excellence with Investors in People Standard as their guide post, or one of the very few, to follow.

Once more, I would like to pass on my congratulations to everyone at St. Luke's Medical Center for what I know have been a great team effort.

BAMBLETO A. CANLAS
Chairperson, IIP Philippines Recognition Panel for St. Luke's IIP accreditation
Vice PMLEC Officer

Investors in People recognises firms of world class people practices

A recognition ceremony to honor the organizations who recently achieved the Investors in People (IIP) Recognition is happening today at the general membership meeting of the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) at Intercontinental Hotel Makati City, attended by hundreds of PMAP members, officers, and guests. The awardees are St. Luke's Medical Center and South Cotabato Integrated Port Services, Inc., both are granted first time recognition on the Investors in People Standard. British Council, on the other hand, receives its Investors in People Recognition for the second time.

2009, the year that IIP Philippines Centre under PMAP, has started well with the following organizations successfully undertaking assessments. IIP Philippines is extremely pleased to have recognised also organizations committed to Investors in People, namely: Asian Eye Institute, CDI Bayad Center, e-MERALCO Ventures, Inc., Figaro Coffee Systems, First Electro Dynamics Corp., First Philippine Industrial Corp., Guaranteed Mfg., HSC Inc., Lafarge Cement Svcs. Philippines, MMLDC Foundation, Philippines Electric Corporation, Q2 HR Solutions, Pestcon Pest Control & Gen. Svcs. Inc., and TNT Express Philippines. The number of organizations officially committing to the Investors in People Standard is fast increasing, in addition to the above certified IIPs.

The certified and committed organizations represent different sectors, which highlights the fact that the Investors in People Standard can be utilized by organizations of varying sizes and across different industries. Great achievement to all concerned.

Investors in People offers a practical, flexible and easy to use framework delivering business improvement through people.

Investors in People sets a standard for good practice in matching what people can do and are motivated to do with what the organisation needs them to do. This approach is backed up by academic research demonstrating the benefits of aligning people to the organisation. Because the Investors in People framework is focused on delivering tailored support shaped around individual business needs it is flexible enough to apply to any organisation.

The Investors in People framework has been updated regularly since it was created in 1990. The latest version has been developed to be consultative and flexible, providing scope for organisations to pick a tailored path towards recognition that reflects their values, strengths and corporate objectives. The Standard represents the core of good practice but the framework goes beyond this level to enable organisations to develop further where this supports their goals and priorities.

The principal version of the Investors in People brand mark consists of the laurel and the words INVESTORS IN PEOPLE, to the right of the laurel. The IIP brand mark can only be used by organisations that have been successfully recognised and achieved the Investors in People Standard. The brand mark is officially distributed to clients by full-licensed local Centres: Investors in People Philippines.

Businesses wishing to speak to any of the Investors in People in the Philippines or requiring further information should contact IIP Philippines Chief Executive Gerry Plana or Quality Service Administrator Ralph Malabanan via telephone: 726.1532, email: ralph.malabanan@pmap.org.ph, or visit www.investorsinpeople.co.uk.

MOTORING

Cito Cesar D. Mangiwang



SO NEAR, YET SO HIGH

No tax breaks for 1st mass-produced hybrid car in RP

By Tessa R. Salazar

TWO DAYS AFTER STARTing Philippine retail sales and four days after a public mall display at Greenbelt's Makati this weekend, Toyota Motors Philippines continues to be optimistic that it can break into its daring prelaunch prediction of 100 Prius units sold by yearend.

Shocked about the price

Carbon footprint

Other makers watching

Bigger and better

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

More space

2.4-liter engine









Ford GT

Ford vs Ferrari and other stories

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

Ford

Larger





Solon urges probe of vanishing loads

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PARTYLIST REPRESENTATIVE for the youth has urged Congress to probe telecommunications companies on claims of "vanishing loads" of prepaid mobile phone users.

Load refers to the phone credits of prepaid subscribers.

Following up on the privilege speech of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile on vanishing loads, Rep. Raymond Palatino has urged the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to impose stricter measures on "abusive" cellular phone service providers.

"Senator Enrile hit violations when millions of prepaid cell phone users have been complaining about for many years now ... the disappearance of load without so much as an explanation from the NTC or telcos," Palatino said. "Senator Enrile is fortunate because he is Senate president and can easily summon concerned parties and have his complaint immediately addressed."

In a press statement, Palatino said that millions of consumers and cell phone users "have suffered this inconvenience, but their complaints have been taken for granted."

Palatino, also a founding convenor of consumer rights groups TxtPower, has filed a counterpart resolution in the House of Representatives (HR No. 1237) to investigate the cases of vanishing loads.

In a statement, the solon protested the "arbitrary loss of load without reason or explanation."

He also criticized the "unreasonable" expiration dates of prepaid loads. Cellular phone credits obtained through pass-a-load would last only for a few days, while those purchased through prepaid cards vary in expiration dates, depending on the nature of the card purchased.

Palatino also denounced unsolicited text ads sent to subscribers "without the knowledge or consent of cell phone users and where, in subscribers are randomly charged."

He also claimed telcos were charging for the use of certain services, such as load balance inquiry and other such mechanisms, when these should be provided for free.

Palatino said that to better address these issues, telcos should be made to explain.

"They should be made accountable for this abuse," he said.

He added that the NTC and telcos should be made to set up an accessible and effective mechanism to address these matters.

"The NTC itself admitted in the previous Senate hearing that it barely received complaints on vanishing loads—a matter which could only be attributed to the accessibility and efficiency of their hotline," Palatino said.

"Telcos, on the other hand, which admitted to have received complaints on vanishing loads, are yet to report to the committee how they have addressed them."

Palatino said that he would urge the committee on Information and Communications Technology to conduct a hearing in Congress, which would run simultaneously with the Senate's own investigation during recess.

eTelecare bags telco contract

By Abigail L. Ho

LISTED BUSINESS PROCESS outsourcing (BPO) company eTelecare Global Solutions has clinched a technical support services contract with an international provider of voice, video and data communications services.

In a regulatory filing, eTelecare said that under the agreement, it would provide technical support services to the service provider's residential and small business high-speed Internet clients.

These services would be handled in one of eTelecare's Philippine contact centers, the company said.

"eTelecare has significant experience providing technical support services to residential and small business high-speed Internet users," eTelecare president and chief executive John Harris said.

"We are confident that this experience—combined with our business philosophy of investing to outperform in people, process and technology—can deliver quantifiably superior results in terms of first-call resolution, customer satisfaction, retention and dispatch rate for this premier full-service provider," he added.

According to the disclosure, eTelecare currently has more than 2,000 agents involved in delivering complex technical troubleshooting and problem resolution across the company's portfolio of technical support programs.

The BPO firm operates 15 delivery centers with more than 13,000 employees in the Philippines, the United States, Nicaragua and South Africa.

Its Philippine delivery centers, which house 80 percent of its total employee count, are strategically located in different parts of Metro Manila, including Eastwood City, Makati, Alabang and Mandaluyong.

It also has two centers in Cebu and one in Pampanga, within the former US military base in Clark.

The company's expansion to Cape Town in South Africa was implemented just last March, enabling it to offer European, North American, Global 1000 and in-country clients BPO services in English, French, Dutch, German, Portuguese, Italian and other European languages.





LIFESTYLE Parenting



Daddy blogs

They're funny, they're silly, they're sweet: they're fathers who blog

By Pam Pastor

LIKE STEAMED BROCCOLI beside a plate of ooey gooey mac and cheese, daddy blogs have been ignored for the longest time. More attention is given to mothers who have taken over the Internet.

For a change, we focus on dads. Our favorites, for your bookmarking pleasure.

Daddy Forever

www.daddyforever.com

Dad: Daddy Forever

Kids: Little Princess, 9; Spiderboy 6; Little Monkey 3; Little Disney, 3 months

Memorable excerpt: "What a big difference a couple of months can make. After one month, I wanted to return Little Disney for a full refund [illegible] After three months, I want my wife to have 20 more babies. He's that cute. Little Disney can also talk now. Not with real words, but by cooing. When I talk to him, he coos back at me. [illegible]"

Why you should read it: [illegible]

The Busy Dad Blog

[illegible]

Dad Gone Mad

[illegible]

Poop and Boogies

[illegible]

DADDY BLOGS C2





THE GALS all love comedian Vhong Navarro, here with Candice Gil, Ruffa Gutierrez, Ella Bautista, Trish Versoza, Mey Moreno, Jessica Guevara and Carmina Paris



GOV. CHAVIT Singson, Cedric Lee with his lady love Vina Morales, debonair Mike Toledo



RAYMOND Gutierrez, Solenn Heussaff, Richard Gutierrez, Ruffa G and Mich Dulce



MISS Ronaldo, Mandy Santos, Pepper Teehankee and Anton San Diego



HOW MUCH they care for each other is evident in their eyes. Ruffa Gutierrez and John Lloyd Cruz with pal Jessica Guevara



MOI with John Lloyd Cruz



SIGAUT Djamel with Ruffa and Dina Djamel

John Lloyd is Ruffa's special guest at her birthday bash



WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using FGL Photo Solutions

IT WAS DEFINITELY ONE of the hottest tickets of the week, dahlings, when stunner beauty queen, TV and movie actress **Ruffa Gutierrez** celebrated her birthday.

She was stunningly drawn in a black and white outfit and eye-catching shoes both by Chanel no less, dahlings.

Ruffa's close pal, multifaceted businessman Noel Dilado, hosted the party held in a posh village.

The invitation requested everyone to "please come in white." Everyone did, except for three stars who came in black, would you believe?

Anyway, that happening gathered some of the most gorgeous faces and handsome men under one roof, pakaggan.

But, the big question on everyone's mind was about the celebrant's man of the moment. And before you could even bat an eyelash, handsome, dashing **John Lloyd Cruz** gallantly walked in and went straight to the celebrant, giving her a big hug, while the women and men swooned and turned green with envy, dahlings.

Anne and Erwan

In another corner was another gorgeous lady, Anne Curtis, with her man of the moment, good-looking French-Filipino entrepreneur **Erwan Heussaff**, who shuttles to Manila and Paris for his work. They keep a low profile of togetherness, pakaggan.

Ruffa then sang a song for her guests and later blew out one candle each from the three cakes as we sang "Happy birthday."

The after-dinner affair had a full buffet table, catered by **La Tasca**, one of Ortiz's favorite restos.

The sky was full of stars but the brightest twinkle was in those beautiful eyes of our Princess for a Day Ruffa Gutierrez, dahlings, who stayed on 'til the last guest left, with John Lloyd by her side.

All's well again at the Gutierrez home, which makes our darling Ruffa even happier than ever.

Ahh, love is definitely in the air, dahlings, at least for this beautiful couple, Ruffa and John Lloyd.

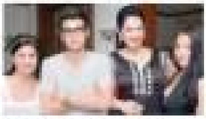
And here's a scoop! A super reliable source whispered that the newest endorser for the popular Swatch watch is—yes, pakaggan—no less than John Lloyd Cruz. I tell you, when the sun shines it really shines, di bala pakaggan?



CARLA Humphries, Raymond Gutierrez and Bubbles Paraiso



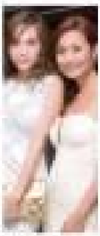
ANGELI Pangilinan-Valenciano with gorgeous celebrator Ruffa Gutierrez and party host, multifaceted businessman Noel Dilado



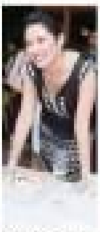
ANNE Curtis, Erwan Heussaff, Ruffa G, Solenn Heussaff



JOEM Bascon, Vhong Navarro, Ruffa G, Meryll Soriano, Thou Reyes, CJ Jaravata and Megan Young



DIVINE Lee and Phoemela Baranda



LOVELY pose from the lovely celebrant



RICHARD, Ruffa and Raymond in a loving huddle



MARIPI Moore, Carmina Paris and Miriam Quiambao



LEAH de Guzman, Ruffa G, Mandy and Dolpie Santos



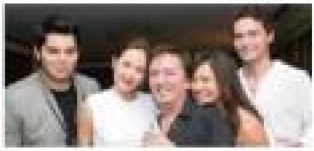
ERIC and Danita Rose Villarama



THE GUTIERREZ brothers celebrate: Raymond, Rocky, Ruffa, Richard, Elvis with his long time girlfriend from the US Rina, Robin Paul and his girlfriend Mara



BAKDY Wheeler, Ruffa G, Tina and Michelle Fuentebella and Michael Baranda



RAYMOND Gutierrez, Teresa Herrera, interior designer Anton Mendoza, Dolpie Santos and Bryan McClelland



JAMIE Mahlsch-Alvarez, Ruffa G, Danita Rose Villarama and Ana Revez



MELO Esguerra, John Lloyd Cruz, Aaron Bitolla, Ruffa Gutierrez, Maxie Balcazo-Zamora and Tim Yap



ALTA Recto, young designer Charles Santo, Amina Aranaz, Divine Lee, Jamie Epperson and JM Rodriguez



RUFFA G with the lovely Quezon sisters Jessica, Nicole and Carla

What makes a class valedictorian?

Top students of Ateneo, La Salle, Assumption, St. Paul's describe their parents' way

By Cathy Babao-Guballa

THE BEST LESSONS ARE OFTEN taught to us by our children.

They speak the truth, as painful as it may sometimes be, and show us our true selves. When we invest in our children's lives fully, love and support them unconditionally, they may often surprise us.

I had the privilege of interviewing the high school class valedictorians of Ateneo de Manila University, La Salle Greenhills, Assumption Convent and St. Paul's Quezon City. We can learn a lot from these young men and women who have chosen excellence as a way of life.

Dom Bolas

Dom Bolas was a class valedictorian of Ateneo de Manila High School. He is enrolled in BS Applied Mathematics major in Mathematical Finance at Ateneo de Manila University where he is a merit scholar.

Bolas remembers how his parents, Dominador and Josefa, were always there to support him.

5 lessons from his parents:

1. Always give your best in everything you do, no matter how trivial it may seem.

2. Ask help when you need it. Know your limitations so you can work on them.

3. Be patient and persistent. Never give up.

4. Realize your mistakes and take responsibility for all your actions and choices.

5. Pray.

Geri Felicio

Geri Felicio was high school class valedictorian of Assumption San Lorenzo. Felicio is enrolled in BS Chemical Engineering at the University of the Philippines Diliman, where she is an Oblation scholar.

Felicio recalls how her grandparents or her parents [illegible] and [illegible] would always take time out of their busy schedules to tutor her and help her develop study habits in her elementary years.

5 lessons from her parents:

1. Failure is not making a lot of mistakes. Failure is letting those mistakes defeat you and not learning anything from them.

2. You may not see the results right away, but hard work and perseverance definitely pay off.

3. It's not about being the best all the time; the really important thing is that you do your best and tried your hardest.

4. Life can't just be about academics; it's important to balance academics with God, family, friends, fun. Otherwise, you will just end up burning out.

5. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Angeline Banigued

Angeline Banigued was class valedictorian of St. Paul College Quezon City. She will attend Harvard University to major in Applied Mathematics.

Banigued remembers how her mother, Bernadette, a certified public accountant, helped her solve Math problems. She also recalls how her dad, Carlos, a lawyer, listened to speeches she would deliver the next day in class.

5 lessons from her parents:

1. If you dream of achieving something, you have already taken the first step. Believe in yourself and simply dream, dream high.

2. Delve into the world of possibilities. You cannot be a jack-of-all-trades; it takes humility to realize that.

3. Ward off pressure and have fun.

4. Trust God. My parents have instilled in us moral values that our steps [illegible].

5. After every win or success, I would make it a point to say "Thank you" because I really wanted them to know that every accomplishment of mine was theirs as well.



Geri Felicio

Delfin Villafuerte

Delfin Villafuerte was class valedictorian of La Salle Green Hills High School. He is enrolled in B.S. Management Engineering on full academic scholarship at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Villafuerte has many fond memories of how his parents, Roland and Cecile, would be present in all his school activities.

5 lessons from mom and dad:

1. Education is a blessing, a privilege and an asset that no one can take away from you.

2. Success can be achieved only through hard work.

3. Do what you believe is right; do not be affected by what others think.

4. Never give up. Learn from your mistakes.

5. It is always better to achieve something by cooperating with others.

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com



DELFIN Villafuerte with his sister and parents Roland and Cecile

Daddy blogs

From page [illegible]

Kids: [illegible], 6; [illegible], 3.

Memorable excerpt: "I have been either thrown up on, spit on, or peed on at least once, every day for the past 15 days. It kind of reminds me of the time I used to work in an after hours nightclub."

Why you should read it: Born to a family of nine siblings, blogger William says, "My dad and mom used to have some interesting ways of dealing with the nine kids. My personal favorite was when one of us would ask at dinner, 'Mom, what's to eat?' My father always replied, 'Poop and boogies. Eat up and eat it.' Not the same as 'There are kids starving in China' but we got the message."

Shotgun Daddy

http://www.shotgundaddy.com/

Dad: Brad, a 34-year-old English teacher

Kids: Allison, who's in second grade; Henry who is in kindergarten; and Ross who is in preschool and is a complete drama queen

Memorable excerpt: "The biggest thing that all this homework has done is giving me an hour of uninterrupted time with my son every night. In small hours in a family of five. So whether we're deciding if an airplane should be colored purple or red, sorting words by their opening syllables, or discussing the state and subdivisions of Custom George, we're doing it together. I wouldn't have it any other way."

Why you should read it: Because he can also be heartbreakingly sweet, like when he wrote this on his daughter's ninth birthday: "As we sit here, balanced precariously on the midway point between her birth and her 18th birthday, I find myself looking forward as much as I look back. I can guess what the next nine years will hold—makeup and training bras, boyfriends and curfews, dented fenders and broken hearts. And even though there will be times when she won't need me, secrets that she won't tell me, and heartaches she won't share, I hope that those first nine years have taught her one thing: Even as she's pushing her limits and riding away from me, I will still be there running beside her, ready to catch her if she falls."

Adventure Dad

http://www.adventuredad.com/

Dad: Adventure dad is Swedish but has spent half his life in the US. He is a professional tennis player and fitness professional.

Kids: Dante, 5; Amelia, 2

Memorable excerpt: "Yesterday I had a five-minute phone 'conversation' with Daniel and it was fabulous. It's so cute to hear him open up more and search for words. Now I can barely speak to this Pole because offspring wants to chat with me. He keeps on saying 'pappa, pappa,' and then another thousand words that have no meaning unless you are initiated to Word in Star Trek and actually speak Klingon. Daniel also called someone else on the phone and talked for a while. Who it was we don't know. We are praying that it wasn't an international call to China."

Why you should read it: He doesn't just write stories about his kids and his life as a dad. He discusses topics like car seats, raising multilingual kids and where babies should sleep.

Dear Spike, Love Dad

http://dearspikelovedad.blogspot.com/

Dad: He's just known as Dad.

Kids: Spike, a little girl

Memorable excerpt: "Dear Spike, It's because of the apparently hyper-contagious nature of your mother's current ailment that we decided it would be best to keep you and her apart today. So it was that, for the first time in the two years that you've spent on this planet, you went a whole day without a hug or a kiss from your mommy.

It took a while, but you ultimately seemed to understand the funny new don't-touch-mommy game we were playing—although you did attempt a few end runs around the no-contact clause of your contract today.

'Mommy is very, very sick,' you said.

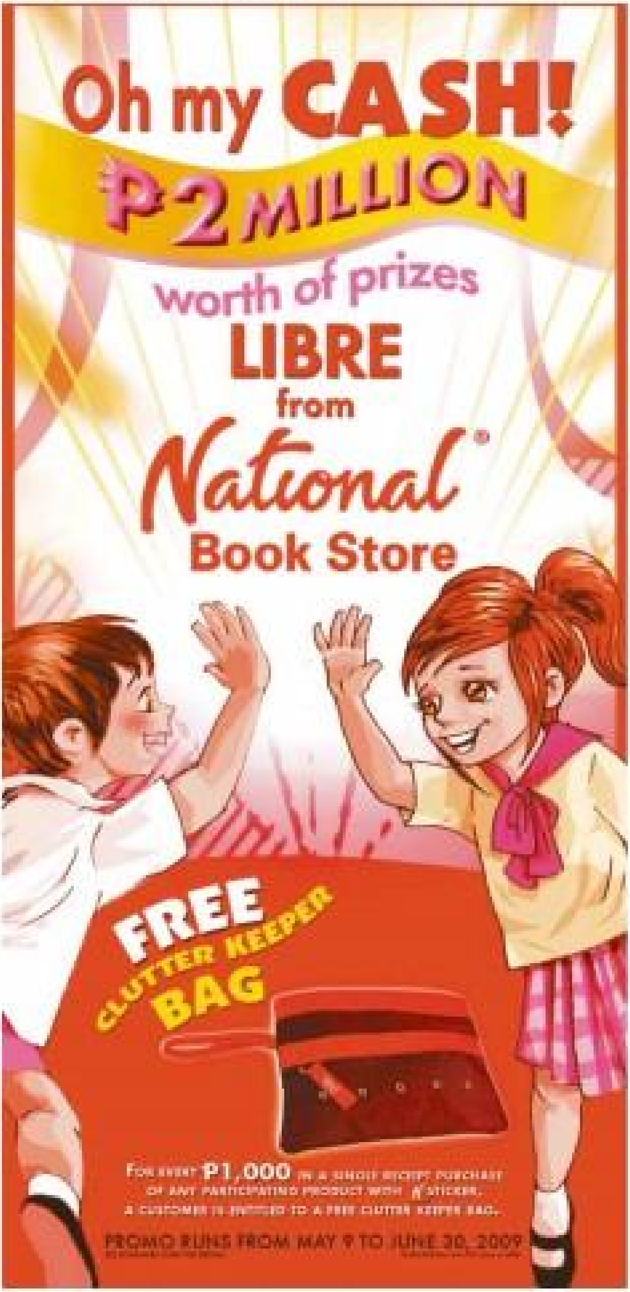
'That's right,' I said.

'She needs to go to the doctor,' you said.

'Could be,' I said.

'I'm a doctor!' you suggested."

Why you should read it: This series of letters from a dad to a daughter (which he began writing while Spike was still in her mother's womb) is both entertaining and touching.





CONTEMPORARY ART FROM GERMANY FEATURED AT MET MUSEUM

The Metropolitan Museum of Manila showcases "Come in: Interior Design as a Contemporary Art Medium in Germany" until Sept. 15, at the Tall and Upper Galleries. [illegible]

New Filipino publication in Spanish to be launched on Friday

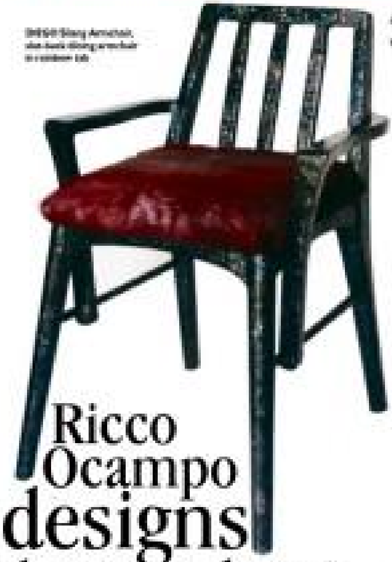
CULTURAL MAGAZINE PERRO BERDE, the only publication of Philippine culture in Spanish, will launch its first issue on June 26, 7 p.m., at Instituto Cervantes in Manila.

[illegible]

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2009
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

After Celestina accessories comes Celestina Home—done with the most unconventional materials



Ricco Ocampo designs the 'new luxe'

By Margo C. Fernandez
Contributor

CHAIRS IN DELICATE PROportions are framed in rigid pen shell and upholstered in Mongolian lamb or in stingray combined with Mongolian lamb. A stool with ivory legs is overlaid with dyed horsehair. Narrow dining tables are sheathed in parchment or pen shell, their metal legs covered with blacklip shell or shagreen.

Stingray hide is also used to bind large books. River stones, wrapped in shell finish, create a sense of rhythm on the carpet. The home pieces are made from anything but wood.

To entrepreneur Ricardo "Ricco" Ocampo, furniture and furnishing are the new fashion; his individualistic designs proclaim the new luxe.

"In the world of luxury what matters are objects done intensely by hand, with all the artistry and excellent workmanship," Ocampo says. "It's not a name and a logo that says this is luxury. I've been through that phase, like my wife who would buy an Hermès bag because it felt good.

"When you've done this 25 years ago, you realize today that it's not as important as having a well-made bag or a well-made dress," he says, referring to his furniture and accessories which are produced by skilled artisans.

Ocampo has come full circle as an artist. In the mid-'80s, he burst onto the lifestyle scene painting on T-shirts which became a sellout. The line evolved into East-East Store, a fashion store that went big with the concept of quickness in Philippine fashion retail.

With wife, model-turned-designer Tina Maristela, he runs Mix, the upscale multi-brand foreign label store; Steff's, specializing in Ruffy Ferragamo's bags; the Black Shop, for career women; and G2 eyewear.

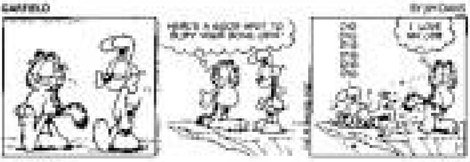
Ocampo is a partner in 10 other ventures.

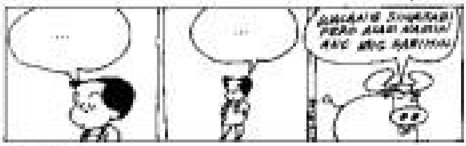
Curious mind

With a curious mind and sense of adventure, he's always pushed the envelope. He started designing furniture using unconventional materials and combinations. Six years ago, he created objects for the home—a drawer for his wife's night table, a mirrored box with many compartments, accessorized with coral handles. He also used mollusks and shagreen to make boxes for the living room and storage for Tina's jewelry and scarves.

The piece de resistance in their dining

GARFIELD





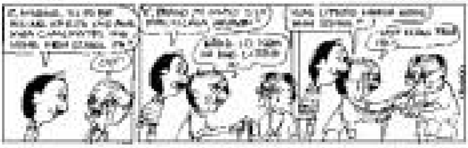
PUGAD BABOY



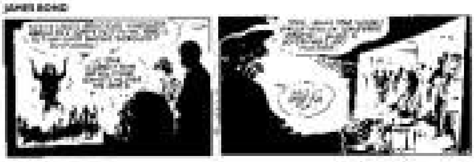
DICK TRACY



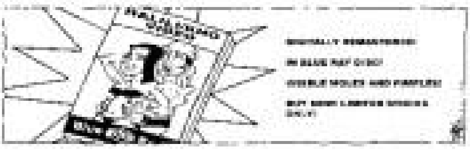
LOVESHOTS



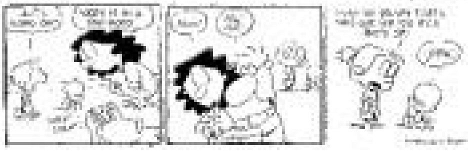
JAMES BOND

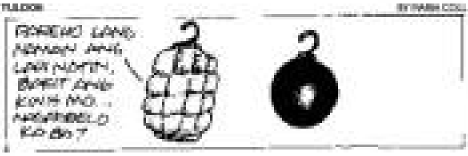


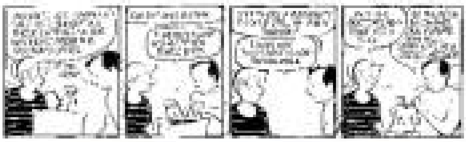
DIVINE COMEDY

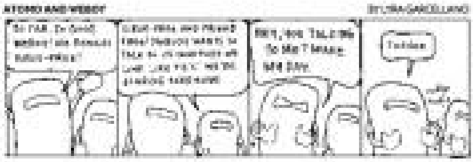


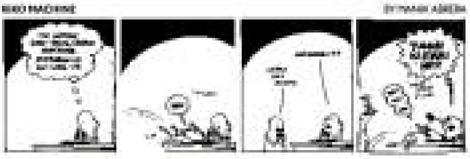
BABY BLUES





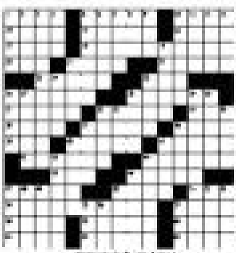


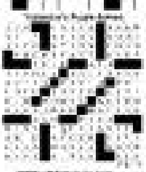




HOROSCOPE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

			6	3				
			9		8	4		
		1					8	
	4		2					1
8					7			4
6		7	5	1				3
9	5		8				6	
		6				5		
		8	4	6	5	2	3	

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Answer to previous puzzle

8	1	9	5	6	2	7	3	4
4	2	5	9	7	3	6	1	8
6	7	3	4	8	1	5	2	9
2	6	4	7	1	8	3	9	5
1	3	7	2	5	9	4	8	6
9	5	8	6	3	4	2	7	1
3	9	6	8	2	5	1	4	7
5	8	2	1	4	7	9	6	3
7	4	1	3	9	6	8	5	2







Ricco Ocampo designs the 'new luxe'





Designs that matter



To clarify

IN THE STORY "BUDJI LAYUG, NEAL OSHIMA COLLABORATE anew" (Lifestyle, June 10, 2009), it should be clarified that the firm's correct name is Budji Layug+Royal Pineda Design Architects, Inc.—a corporation, not a sole proprietorship.

DESIGNER'S SPACE

How Bitong learned to live ingeniously without high ceiling

Framed animal brooches, good carpentry —jazzing up is fun



Production area



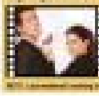




Soft, fluid



ENTERTAINMENT



'Bente' challenges 'Transformers'



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3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
5 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
6 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
7 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
8 BIG NIGHT
9 BENTE
10 DRAG ME TO HELL

ERMITA

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
5
6 BIG NIGHT
7 BENTE / DRAG ME TO HELL

METRO EAST

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
5 THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
6 DRAG ME TO HELL
7 TERMINATOR: SALVATION
8 BENTE

NOVALICHES

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 BENTE / THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123
4 KAMASUTRA NIGHTS

PIONEER

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4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen

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3 THE COFFIN
4 HOUSE

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2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
4 HOUSE

DASMARINAS

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 THE COFFIN
4 FROM WITHIN

IMUS

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 THE COFFIN
4 FROM WITHIN

STARMILLS

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
4 THE COFFIN
5 HOUSE
6 TERMINATOR: SALVATION / DRAG ME TO HELL

ANGELES

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 THE COFFIN
4 AMUSEMENT / HOUSE

TACLOBAN

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen

BACOLOD

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
4 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
5 FROM WITHIN
6 KAMASUTRA NIGHTS

ILOILO

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
4 SHINJUKU INCIDENT
5 DRAG ME TO HELL
6 FROM WITHIN

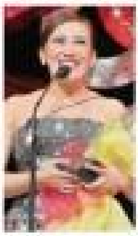


CALL FOR ENTRIES

leap filmfest

Leap International Development Film Festival Manila, Philippines

Ai Ai: Sarah deserves title





SARAH Geronimo and John Lloyd Cruz

Binoe-Buboy blockbuster?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal



Mr. C's protege in solo concert

MICHELLE, FORMER PROTEGE OF [illegible]



MICHELLE

Charice at SMX

Akon at Big Dome

Comedy at Greenbelt 3

Pat Castillo at Mark's

SHOW TIME

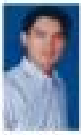
Tonight

June 26

June 29

July 16

July 22



Baguio event

What goes up . . .



'The Kite Runner' on HBO

'Brothers and Sisters'

'America's Top Model'

VIEWFINDER

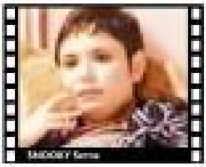
Nestor U. Torre



Rule of thumb

Daring and baring

Opening Today



Bente

[illegible]



Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen

[illegible]

Cruising for boys younger than his sons

By the Entertainment staff

AT LEAST TWO MOLES have confirmed this flaming scandal-bait: [illegible]

Versions of a word war

[illegible]

Wanted: Perfect Manager

[illegible]

Not just the stars

[illegible]

Thanks, Tito Doug

[illegible]

Like a warlock

[illegible]

Personal Oracle

[illegible]



[illegible]

Top of the talk shows

[illegible]